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(56) Documents Cited

GB 2360638 A

GB 2342910 A

GB 2274026 A

JP 030053472 A

GB 2356621 A

GB 2320820 A

GB 2045546 A

JP 2000331737 A

(58) Field of Search

UK CL (Edition T) H2E EDT

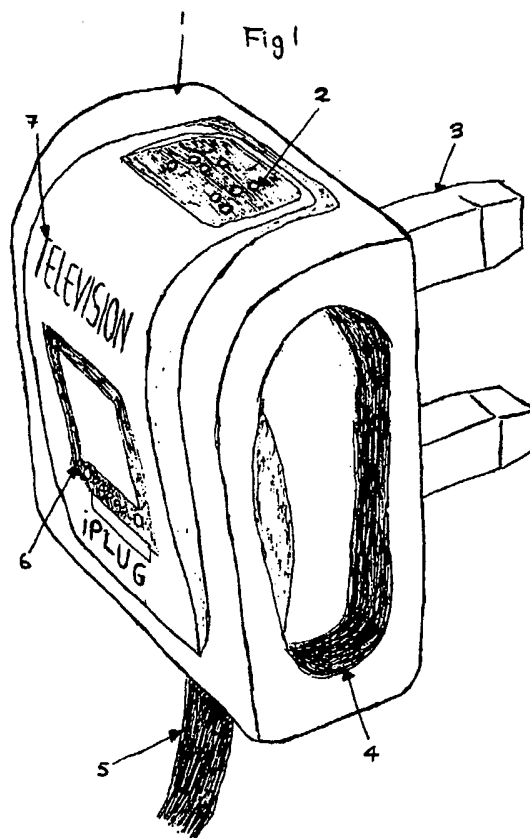
INT CL⁷ H01R 13/46

Online: EPODOC, JAPIO, WPI

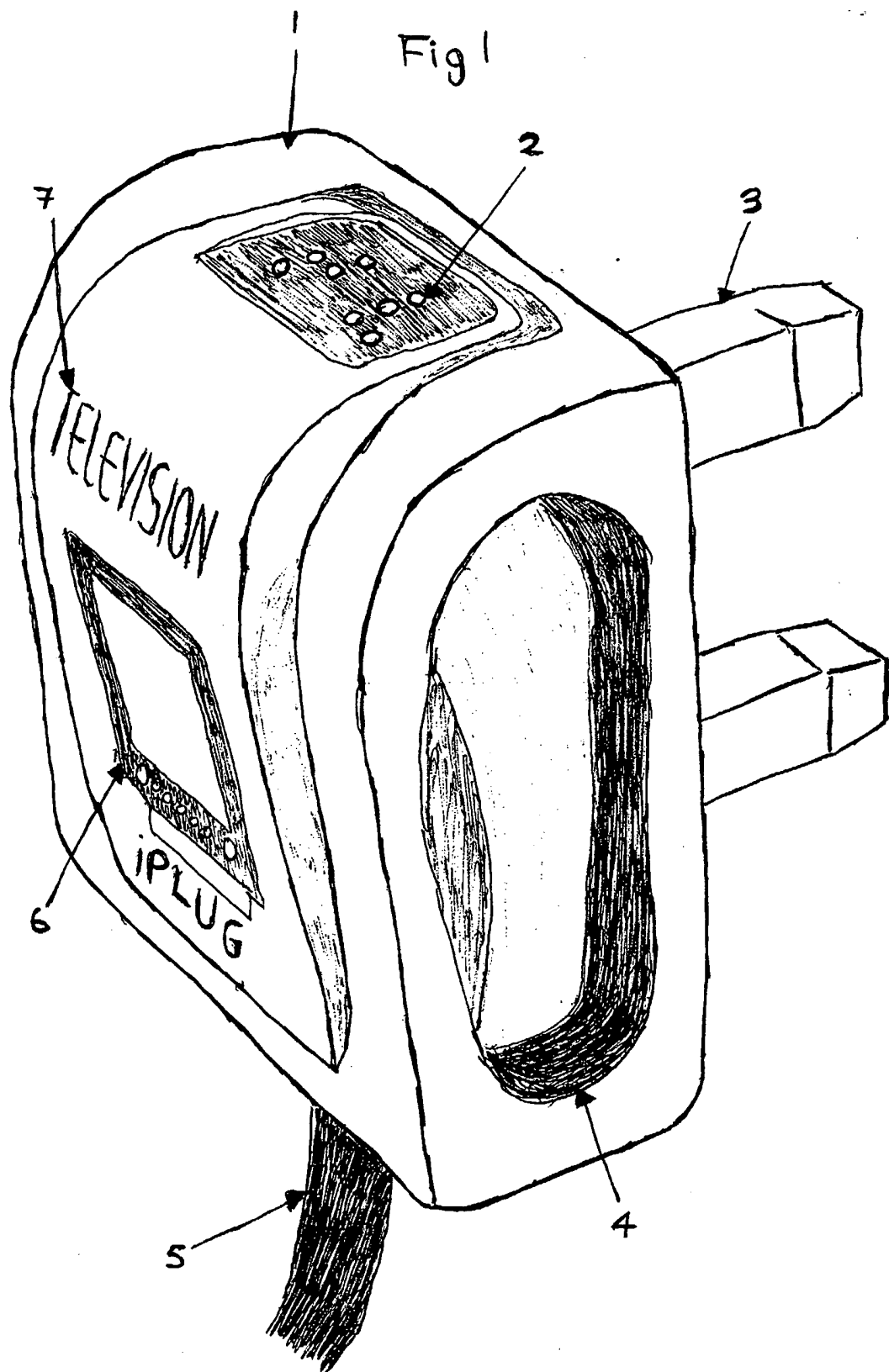
(54) Abstract Title

Identifiable electrical plug

(57) An electrical plug 1 has a graphical representation 6, text 7, and braille 2 moulded onto the plug 1 for identification purposes. To assist in the removal of the plug the sides are recessed 4.



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I PLUG

This invention relates to a new and improved electrical plug.

Electrical plugs are devices that are connected by way of electrical cable to an electrical appliance, e.g Television.

The plug is then plugged into the mains outlet socket, where the voltage is carried from the mains outlet through the electrical plug, along the electrical cable and into the said appliance where it then can be operated by the voltage supplied.

Virtually all-electrical plugs are identical, i.e white, plastic, and nearly square in shape, three metal electrical prongs on the base with a fuse on the inside of the plug. When a number of electrical plugs are at the same time plugged into a Multi-adaptor or a number of mains outlets it can be difficult to ascertain which plug is connected to which appliance.

With the present electrical plug an appliance could easily be accidentally disconnected from the mains outlet and could lead to serious consequences, e.g. freezer full of food defrosting.

The iPlug enables easy identification of what appliance it is connected to preventing the accidental disconnection of a particular appliance.

The iPlug base is designed in virtually the same manner as a conventional electrical plug, with three metal prongs, which fit into the mains outlet and fused.

The main body of the iPlug is designed in such a way that a sighted or visually impaired individual would easily be able to identify what appliance it is connected to. This is achieved through the use of both a graphic representation and the name of an appliance moulded into the face of the plug.

At the top of the plug housing the appliance citation is denoted in Braille.

The sides of the plug have been ergonomically contoured which will assist in the easy removal of the plug from the mains outlet.

These features will help prevent the wrong appliance been accidentally removed from the mains outlet.

The drawing fig 1 shows the iPlug in its entirety, which shows its features.

Referring to the drawing the iPlug comprises body of the plug 1 and the appliance citation in Braille 2 for identification by persons with impaired vision.

In order to connect the iPlug into the mains outlet 3 is fitted into the relevant receptacle within the mains outlet sockets, once the iPlug needs to be removed 4 is used to assist in pulling the iPlug from the mains outlet.

In order to check that the correct iPlug has been removed 6 and 7 can be used verify this, with 5 supplying voltage through this to the appliance.

CLAIMS

- 1 An electrical plug with both a graphic representation and the name of an appliance moulded into the top of the plug, the top of the plug housing the appliance citation is denoted in Braille along with ergonomically sides.
- 2 An electrical plug as claimed in claim 1 wherein the graphic representation is moulded onto the housing of the plug of what appliance that plug is connected to.
- 3 An electrical plug as claimed in claim 2 wherein the appliance name is moulded onto the plug housing on the appliance that plug is connected to.
- 4 An electrical plug as claimed in claim 3 wherein the appliance citation is denoted in Braille on the plug housing.
5. An electrical plug as claimed in any proceeding claim, wherein the electrical plug has a graphic representation of the appliance on the housing.
6. An electrical plug as claimed in any proceeding claim, wherein the electrical plug has the appliance name on the housing of the electrical plug.
7. An electrical plug as claimed in any proceeding claim, wherein the electrical plug has the appliance citation denoted in Braille on the electrical plug housing.
8. An electrical plug as described herein with reference to fig 1 of the accompanying drawing.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Application No: GB 0106369.2
Claims searched: 1 to 8

Examiner: Matthew Parker
Date of search: 16 April 2002

Patents Act 1977 Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.T): H2E: EDT

Int Cl (Ed.7): H01R: 13/46

Other: Online: EPODOC, JAPIO, WPI

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
Y	GB 2360638 A (PHILLIPS), see Figure 1	1 to 7
Y	GB.2356621 A (HUNT), see Figure 1	1 to 7
X	GB 2342910 A (ECCLES), see page 1 paragraph 4	1 to 7
Y	GB 2320820 A (LLOYD-DAVY), see abstract	1 to 7
Y	GB 2274026 A (KAINSTAR), see Figure 3	1 to 7
Y	GB 2045546 A (WORRELL), see Figure	1 to 7
Y	JP 3-53472 A (ODAGIRI), see WPI abstract, Acc no. 1991-112955	1 to 7
X	JP 2000-331737 A (SAKAMOTO), see Figure 3	1 to 7

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.